Sept. 6, 1975

Dear Mr. Rather,

It is a sad day at our house today.

Our son will go to school on Monday to the questions of his classmates and teachers. (On Friday he was a celebrity from all the commercials using him for The Guns of Autumn.) But some of his teachers have your Walt Disney sentiments.

We have taught our sons realistic values. Mother Nature can be the cruelest of all levelers. But she uses disease, starvation and predators. In some areas she uses this method of limiting numbers of people. Man, the humanitarian, has altered this and now we face over population for people, cats and dogs.

Can we, also, tackle the over population of the wild animals and losing some fragile species

through no game management? The resulting diseases passed to man from them will also be an additional problem.

Mr Rather, we eat chicken, (This killing on the farm is more pathetic than your finial scene at Louie's.) beef, fish, shrimp pork, venison, rabbit and bear. Are you and Irv (or Erv.) both vegetarians?

I had always thought you were perfect and did unbiased reporting. I had planned on reading "The Palace Guards." But I find I can not belive you any more to be a fair reporter or author.

I can not understand how anyone could be so warped to be a child molester. But I feel my son and the young duck hunters were used, not physically, but USED!

And they will feel the burn

of your biased reporting in the classroom.

You knocked the junior shooting programs which prevent many of the poor situations you showed.

I am sure you have much fine film from your crews - maybe some hunts where the men decided not to kill the game - But you knew if you got enough footage you would eventually get enought people saying with a smile what a thrill it is to kill. It is amazing what a statement out of context can appear to say.

I feel very sorry for the many fine people ~~who have~~ to whom you have done a grave injustice with your national coverage.

You got their co-operation with out and out lies!

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Your crew accepted much friendliness and hospitality from these hunters You would never have gotten the pictures without their assistance.

Mr. Lather, I did not sign a release for my son to be on the show. I would advise that no portion of that film with his picture or voice ever be used again over the network or in any other way without my permission.

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Att: Mr Dan Rather
CBS - Columbia Broadcasting System
New York, New York

Concerning - The Guns of Autumn